

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the following paragraphs in the manner indicated:

The novel golf practice device helps a golfer develop an optimal golf swing. It includes a base adapted to overlie a ground surface, a first post vertical extension mounted to the base in upstanding relation relative to the ground surface, and a second post horizontal extension secured to an upper end of the first post vertical extension in cantilevered relation thereto. The second post horizontal extension is disposed in a substantially horizontal plane. Moreover, the second post horizontal extension is disposed at a substantially right angle to a line that extends from a target golf hole to a stationary golf ball supported by the ground surface.

The second post horizontal extension has a free end disposed in vertically spaced apart relation to the ground surface. The free end is adapted to be disposed substantially directly above the stationary golf ball.

A cradle interface is secured to the free end of the second post horizontal extension.

A third post member support arm is adapted to be releasably engaged by the cradle interface. The third post member support arm, when releasably engaged by the cradle interface, is disposed substantially horizontally and is disposed substantially parallel to the line.

The third post member support arm is at least partially covered by a cushioning soft foam material such as a low density polyethylene foam ~~adapted to absorb kinetic energy so that the kinetic energy of a golf club in motion is at least partially absorbed by the cushioning material if the cushioning material is struck by the golf club.~~

The releasable engagement of the third post support arm by the cradle interface enables the third post support arm to separate from the cradle interface if the cushioning soft foam material is struck by the golf club.

The third post support arm has a first position where ~~a free end of said third post support arm is further from the target hole than is the golf ball positioned in trailing relation relative to said cradle interface, and the third post support arm has a second position where the free end is closer to the target hole than is the golf ball~~ said support arm is positioned in leading relation to said cradle interface. The third post support arm is in the first position when the device is used by a student golfer having a first skill level, and the third post support arm is in the second position when the device is used by a more advanced golfer having a second skill level.

Accordingly, golfers having differing skill levels may practice their golf swing by using the device.

The cradle interface may releasably engage the third post support arm by a press fit, by a magnetic coupling, or by a hook and loop fastener. In the latter arrangement, there is a first hook and loop fastener secured to the cradle interface and a second hook and loop fastener secured to the third post support arm. The first and second hook and loop fasteners are complementary to one another. Other types of releasable fasteners known to those of ordinary skill in the art are also within the scope of this invention as well. It is not feasible to list all known releasable fasteners such as snaps and buckles, quick release clamps, and so on.

The base includes a pair of horizontal support members disposed in a V-shaped configuration. The horizontal support members extend from the first post vertical extension in a direction away from the stationary golf ball.

Weight members are secured to respective free ends of the horizontal support members to counterbalance the weight of the third post support arm and the eushioning soft foam-material that overlies the third post support arm.

The horizontal support members, the first post and the second posts are hollow. An elastomeric assembly guide cord extends through respective hollow interiors of the horizontal support members, the first post vertical extension and the second post horizontal extension, beginning at the respective free ends of the horizontal support members and terminating at the free end of the second post vertical extension. The elastomeric assembly guide cord maintains the horizontal supports members in taut relation to the first post vertical extension and maintains the first post vertical extension in taut relation to the second post horizontal extension.

[0036] In Figure 5, the operation of the device is illustrated wherein the stationary ball location 70 is located underneath the cradle interface 50 which is elevated there-above. The elevation 120 between the cradle interface 50 and the stationary ball location 70 is preferably between ten and thirty centimeters. The direction of the intended golf ball target is denoted by an arrow 130. Thus it is understood from Fig. 5 that support arm 30 is disposed in trailing relation to cradle interface 50, i.e., support arm 30 is further from the target hole than is cradle interface 50. During the student's backswing, and more importantly, down stroke, the cylinder

P2

20 prevents an over the top swing between a first point 140 and the impact point 150. The inside zone 160 is established visually in the mind of the student by the cylinder 20 and the swing path is markedly improved. In the event that the student strikes the cylinder, the cradle interface 50 and support arm 30 disengage harmlessly. An important advantage of the present invention is that the soft foam material that forms the cylinder lowers the anxiety experienced by the novice student. The rigid material employed in the prior art, while possessing the ability to break away at impact, causes concern that the student or a nearby individual will be struck by a hard object. The cradle interface 50 and the support arm 30 may be engaged by a mechanical interference fit, a magnetic coupling, a hook and loop faster, or the like.

Concl

[0037] Because the base of the device is symmetrical, an alternative configuration of the device is possible to address problems experienced by more advanced golfers. In Figure 6, the cylinder 20 and support arm 30 assembly is reversibly attached to the cradle interface 50 to reorient towards the golf target 130 wherein lower handicap and tour players are encouraged to swing a club back to the inside on the follow through of a golf swing. Accordingly, it is understood from Fig. 6 that support arm 30 is disposed in leading relation to cradle interface 50 when the novel device is used by an advanced golfer, i.e., support arm 30 is closer to the target hole than is cradle interface 50.